

HOTLINE

Recorded Friday September 30, 2011

The following is a brief summary of emergency and permanent sport fishing regulations for the lower mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries and tentatively scheduled razor clam digs.

Complete information contained in this hotline message can be found in the 2011/2012 Fishing in Washington pamphlet or on the department's web site @ <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

SALMON/STEELHEAD

Buoy 10 upstream to the McNary Dam –Effective October 1, the salmonid daily limit is 6 fish of which up to 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release all salmon other than Chinook and coho. Release wild coho upstream to the Hood River Bridge. Salmon minimum length is 12 inches.

Entire Mainstem Columbia - Anglers may not possess in the field fish mutilated so that size, species or fin clip cannot be determined until the angler has reached their automobile or principle means of land transportation and has completed their daily angling.

Cowlitz River from boundary markers at mouth to 400 feet below Mayfield Dam powerhouse – Until further notice, the salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which only 2 may be adult chinook. Only hatchery chinook and hatchery coho may be retained.

Tilton River from mouth to West Fork – Until further notice, wild Chinook (adults and jacks) must be released. The salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which up to 2 may be hatchery adult Chinook. Release wild coho.

North Fork Lewis River from mouth to overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam – Until further notice, wild Chinook may be retained. The salmon daily limit is 6 adults of which only 2 may be adult Chinook. Any Chinook (adipose fin clipped or not) may be retained. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

Under permanent regulations, Colvin Creek (located upstream from the salmon hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam closes to all fishing beginning October 1.

Washougal River – Until further notice, the fishing closure is reduced from 400 feet to 200 feet downstream of the new Washougal River adult fish weir.

New Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement - All anglers 15 or

older fishing for salmon or steelhead on the Columbia River or its tributaries must have an endorsement *in addition to their fishing license*. All other seasons and limits apply. The endorsement is good for the entire license year (through March 31), costs \$8.75, and can be purchased at a licensed dealer or online.

STURGEON

Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from Buoy 10 upstream to the Wauna powerlines – Catch-and-release fishing is permitted through the end of the year.

Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam (including all adjacent Washington tributaries) – Beginning October 1, white sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days.

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam (including all tributaries) - The retention of sturgeon in all three pools and tributaries is prohibited through the rest of the year. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted.

TROUT

Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) – Effective October 1 until further notice, up to 10 adipose clipped rainbow trout may be retained per day. An 8-inch minimum size limit remains in effect. In addition, anglers must release all cutthroat, and release rainbow trout except those having a clipped adipose fin and a healed scar at the location of the adipose clipped fin.

RAZOR CLAMS

The first razor-clam dig of the season is tentatively scheduled to begin in late October on four ocean beaches, with additional digs planned through late December. Final approval of all openings will depend on results of marine toxin tests that show the clams are safe to eat. Additional digs for 2012 will be announced in early January.

Below is the schedule of proposed razor-clam digs, along with evening low tides, announced by WDFW:

- Oct. 28, Fri. – 8:28 p.m. (-1.8 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Oct. 29, Sat. – 9:17 p.m. (-1.5 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Nov. 11, Fri. – 6:48 p.m. (-0.4 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
- Nov. 12, Sat. – 7:23 p.m. (-0.4 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
- Nov. 25, Fri. – 6:27 p.m. (-1.9 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks
- Nov. 26, Sat. – 7:14 p.m. (-1.8 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
- Dec. 10, Sat. – 6:30 p.m. (-0.5 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
- Dec. 22, Thurs. – 4:40 p.m. (-0.9 ft.); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Mocrocks
- Dec. 23, Fri. – 5:29 p.m. (-1.4); Long Beach, Twin Harbors, Copalis, Mocrocks

Thank you for calling the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hotline.